

Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

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TRSE-00 EB-07 STR-04 COME-00 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7269

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 4040

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, RO, US

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON VISIT OF ROMANIAN CHIEF RABBI

1. SUMMARY. JERUSALEM POST (JUNE 24 AND 25) GIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO ROMANIAN CHIEF RABBI MOSHE ROSEN'S VISIT TO ISRAEL. THE CHIEF RABBI, WHO ARRIVED ON JUNE 22, ANNOUNCED THAT ROMANIAN OFFICIALS HAD AUTHORIZED HIM TO STATE PUBLICLY THAT FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM WOULD CONTINUE, AND DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT HE WAS IN ISRAEL TO TRY AND SOFTEN UP JEWRY'S PRESSURE ON GOR TO LET JEWS LEAVE ROMANIA. RABBI ROSEN HAS ALREADY MET WITH JEWISH AGENCY CHAIRMAN PINHAS SAPIR AND WITH FM YIGAL ALLON. END SUMMARY.

2. JERUSALEM POST (JUNE 24) NOTES THAT ROMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU "DURING A RECENT VISIT TO US TRIED WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS TO CONVINCE A GROUP OF AMERICAN JWSH LEADERS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PURSUING A LIBERAL POLICY WITH REGARD TO JEWISH EXODUS FROM ROMANIA. MR CEAUSESCU WAS SEEKING MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS FOR ROMANIA UNCLASSIFIED

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IN ITS TRADE WITH THE US - A STATUS WHICH CONGRESS HAS MADE CONDITIONAL ON THE FULFILLMENT OF THE "JACKSON AMENDMENT.."

3. JERSUALEM POST ALSO REPORTS (JUNE 25) THAT RABBI ROSEN DISCUSSED WITH FM ALLON "AN ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WAS READ OUT IN ALL ROMANIA'S SYNAGOGUES LAST FRIDAY NIGHT (JUNE 20) IN THE NAME OF THE CHIEF RABBI..INVITING JEWS WISHING TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL TO REGISTE AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OFFICES.." JERUSALEM POST QUOTES ANALYSTS IN JERUSALEM AS SAYING THAT "IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THE ANNOUNCEMENT SIGNIFIES A NEW LIBERIZATION IN ROMANIA'S EMIGRATION POLICY, WHICH HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY TIGHT-FISTED IN RECENT MONTHS.." THE ANALYSTS ASSUME THAT "THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS 'NOT COMPLETELY UNCONNECTED' WITH ROMANIA'S EFFORTS TO WIN MOST FAVORED NATION SATUS FOR ITS TRADE WITH THE US.."

4. IN A TALK WITH JERUSALEM POST, RABBI ROSEN IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT "THE SYNAGOGUE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS INTENDED TO HELP THE JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TO ASCERTAIN WHAT WAS THE TRUE NUMBER OF JEWS WISHING TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL. HE INDICATED THAT IT HAD BEEN MADE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE BUCHAREST AUTHORITIES.." BUT STRESSED THAT "HIS VISIT HERE WAS NOT TO BE SEEN AS A MISSION ON BEHALF OF THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT.." RABBI ROSEN ALSO SAID THAT "HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO CITE PUBLICLY A STATEMENT MADE TO HIM LAST WEEK BY 'A SENIOR ROMANIAN OFFICIAL' TO THE EFFECT THAT ROMANIA'S JEWS WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE UNDER THE ONGOING REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES PROGRAM.." ON HIS TALKS IN ISRAEL RABBI ROSEN SAID THAT "THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH..'WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING..' WE REACHED JOINT CONCLUSIONS.."

5. HEBREW LANGUAGE PRESS CARRIES SIMILAR REPORTS.
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VELIOTES

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